

April 10, 2009

**Question** (North Beacon Hill, New Holly at MLK, North Rainier Beach participants): Why did you choose to live, start business or shop in your neighborhood?

- We live here because it is racially mixed
- Was affordable when moved to area (not anymore)
- Liked the area
- No more Condos are needed in the area. (shared by all participants)
- Keep housing affordable ( but do not keep building in the south end because it is impacting density and services)
- North Beacon Hill is assessable to downtown, I-5, Lake Washington, South End.
- Enjoy green areas
- Appreciated remodel of Jefferson Park (One participant left the Jefferson park community planning group because she felt younger whites were taking over with their own agenda)
- New Holly area is not safe to walk around – do not frequent MLK businesses, Only goes to Safeway at MLK if run out of basic food stuff, Son has had problems on the playground near house, don't know neighbors because they are immigrants who do not speak English well and seem to be suspicious of AA. Would not let son walk down to MLK at Othello, concern about gang activity in New Holly.
- North Beacon Hill has gang activity (Pacific Islander and Spanish speaking)
- I refuses to let my daughter take the 36 bus because of on-going sexual harassment – feels bus is unsafe for young girls – purchased car for daughter.
- Bus and light rail security is a major concern
- No more bicycle lanes – they are disrespectful to drivers. Mostly white and not mindful of drivers/ white bicyclist think they own the road.
- Areas in the south end don't have sidewalks and kids are not safe walking around. Hinders exercise
- South end does not have a "Community Center" feel to it. What is that suppose to mean?/ places are different/ Community Center is a white thing to not address our safety concerns
- North Beacon Hill has a lot of family owned businesses

**Neighborhood improvements:**

- Dry cleaners (North Rainier, New Holly)
- Superstores – Ross, Larry's, Fred Myer, upgraded Safeway (most participants either shop at "Red Apple" on Beacon Ave or drive to QFC on Rainier) Better restaurants. Establish community standards on businesses (no trashy buildings, penciled signs)(Columbia City is a good model because it has more of a village feel)
- Dawson street area - east of Beacon Hill need more sidewalks with corners because of ongoing drainage problem, erosion issues and cars tend to park any and everywhere.

April 10, 2009

- Seattle must invest in underground wiring because of earthquakes
- More P-Patches ( patches tend to be all Asian and not open to other ethnic groups)(felt Asians monopolizes P-Patches)
- Communities need to be encouraged to have Block Watches
- Gangs and tagging are becoming more of a problem.
- No more churches and nail places
- Improved lighting and sidewalks walking from transit stations (ex, Columbian St)
- Movie House, Pharmacy and Cultural Center ( North Beacon Hill and New Holly @ Othello)
- Car wash (North Beacon Hill and New Holly @ Rainier)
- Retail stores (good quality example, Ross)
- Stop causing overcrowding
- More Black owned businesses
- Just ask the question – “How do you want your neighborhood to improve?”

**Neighborhood Concerns:**

- Increase of gang activity
- No programs for youth (Beacon Hill Area)
- No strip malls
- Light rail has broken up streets
- Community input was not implemented/ those who participated were turned of
- Congestion with parking related to light rail – no park and ride areas – parking permits will not be helpful
- No safety around transit stations
- City bringing more people to the areas – causing more problems – why do we have to have all of the immigrants and low income people when North Seattle doesn't.
- No more bike paths – Bicycle Sunday happens at the lake I don't need it in my neighborhood. Bicycle issue is a white thing
- Where is the input we gave you before?
- Pedestrians include my African American sons. They need to be able to walk down the street without suspicion. They are not something to get rid of.
- We gave you input before and you ignored it.
- This script silences our voices/ questions are not relevant to our issues/just white people doing their thing
- Not culturally process/ not relational/ the way the city wants input/ should have started last year/needed to figure out how to make amends to the AA community.
- Lack of community consciousness in some areas
- Why are you making us stick to this script?
- Older people are dying off

April 10, 2009

- Younger people with no historical connection moving into the area.
- There is no identifiable AA community in the South End
- East Africans are different from us/we do not share a cultural heritage/ should not be included in their group/ they are bringing gang violence into the community
- Ways should be figured out to promote more AA businesses in the South End.
- Less housing
- No more mixed housing
- Car thefts in spring and summer
- Gang activity ( New Holly especially) Somali gangs are involved in break ins and drugs
- Is the south end a Mecca for East Africans and SE Asians?
- City is just pushing the AA community out like before
- Why are there so many East Africans in the South End? Another attempt to push us out from our community/ white people have done that already

#### **Light Rail**

- No one I know is planning on using it
- Not convenient until it goes downtown or to the airport.
- It will cause people to drive to the stations adding more cars to the neighborhood – what is the point?
- Would need car to get to the light rail
- Will not walk up Columbian, Dawson, Graham or Orcas to get home
- The cost will become too prohibitive
- Othello station is just another place you drive from where you live or a place you have to drive to.
- Disabled will have to drive to the station and park – so will not be using it.
- Evening safety a concern / would not walk to light rail station at night or early morning/ no elderly would use it because of safety/ no assessable for disabled
- Fought against the light rail because knew the city would take away buses, interrupt the flow of streets and we would have to pay for parking permits
- They just want to bring more people to live in the south end because they want more tax revenue.
- If though I know it is busy – I don't want it busier
- Employment opportunism near the transit stations must include AA youth

#### **Needed Improvements**

- Pharmacy
- Gang intervention/more options for young people/where do AA young people work in the South End?/ where do AA youth people actually work in Seattle?
- Understanding of the East African community and why they are involved in gang behavior

April 10, 2009

- Trade schools/ IT training for kids/ racism keeps whites, Asians and East Africans from hiring AA youth.
- Microsoft should invest in the south end community not the East side
- A Fred Myer needs to be built at New Holly @MLK
- Park and rides need to be included in any revised neighborhood plan
- Safety is a major concern
- More break ins
- Not enough police or intervention strategies
- More sidewalks
- Evening safety is a concern
- No more apartments, condos and low income housing
- More work opportunities for AA youth
- Security assessment must be done for all three areas
- Retail store that has non-food items – such as clothing
- Figure out ways to get more public input – this is too late for us